

## Lesson 2

Sunday, August 26, 2007  
9:56 AM

### Read Lamentations 3:22-26

Lamentations was written by Jeremiah. It is believed that he wrote this when he was trapped in the bottom of a well. The verses before this say that he was in the dark and the dank.

### Read Luke 7:36-50

Jesus has been doing a lot of healing leading up to this.

The Pharisees were the religious leaders of the day. They didn't see themselves as sinners. The scripture says that the Pharisee "said to himself" in v. 39. Perhaps Jesus knew what he was thinking?

Verse 37 said that the woman was a sinner. Therefore she was openly sinning and was known as a sinner by society.

When Jesus told the Pharisee he had something to say to him, the Pharisee answered proudly, "say it, teacher!" He probably expected Jesus to pay him a compliment.

### Lamentations 3:22-26 (King James Version)

<sup>22</sup>It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

<sup>23</sup>They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

<sup>24</sup>The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.

<sup>25</sup>The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him.

<sup>26</sup>It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.

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Now re-read Luke 7:36-50 and replace "moneylender" with "Jesus", and "debtors" with "sinners."

The more that we see that we owe God, and that he has forgiven that debt... the more we would love him.

Simon was minimizing his sins, if he even knew that he had any.

Now let us put ourselves in Simon's shoes. How often do we walk down the street and compare ourselves to other people we see? We say "oh, well I'm better than them." We see criminals and we feel like we are better than them. We see people who openly sin and believe we are better than them.

Jesus expects us to be Holy. "Be Holy, because I am Holy" (Lev. 11:44) The Bible also says that those who don't know Christ are destined for Hell. Is it then our job to care about these people, and to attempt to show them who Jesus is? Does God not expect this of us? **Read 1 John 3:4-6.** To be in Christ, is to be perfect. Even though we cannot attain this on our own, if we are in Christ, then we do not sin. 1 John also says that anyone who says they do not sin is a liar. This is a very difficult concept.

The modern evangelist will commonly say "God has a wonderful plan for your life." Well what if you were one appointed to go into the twin towers on 9/11 and preach the Gospel? A lot of people will feel like they don't need to hear that, that their lives are "just fine." A lot of people don't want to be told that they aren't getting the most out of their lives. So what do they need to hear?

Think about how Jesus approached people. In this passage, we see how he approached both the Pharisee and woman. He always was polite and kind. But he always gives grace to the humble and law to the proud. Remember the woman at the well. She was a Samaritan, and likely a prostitute (because she was there in the middle of the day, not when the morning when most women go). How did Jesus approach her, did he start by condemning her for her sin? No, he asked for a drink of water. He didn't avoid her sins though... he told her to go to her husband. She eventually admitted her own sins, but some people are too proud to admit it. Remember the rich man, Jesus knew where his heart was. He was too proud of his possessions to give them away for God.

God's grace should keep us humble, not judging. It should keep us appreciative. It should keep us loving.